



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2002

For Information Contact Public Affairs
Mike Johns (602) 514-7566

SWEDISH MAN INDICTED FOR TRAVELING TO THE UNITED STATES TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTS WITH A MINOR

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced today that a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a three count indictment against Per Johann Ekeleof, 40, of Hasselby, Sweden.

The indictment alleges that Ekeleof traveled to the United States for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity with minor males. He was arrested on February 16, 2002, and is currently detained pending trial.

The federal indictment charges Ekeleof in Count 1, with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 2423(b), Traveling in Interstate Commerce with the Intent to Engage in Sexual Act with a Juvenile. Counts 2 and 3 charge Ekeleof with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 2252A, Distributing Child Pornography.

A conviction for Count 1 carries a maximum penalty of 15 year(s), a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Counts 2 and 3 each carries a maximum penalty of 15 year(s), a \$250,000 fine or both.

(MORE)

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the United States Customs Service.

The prosecution is being handled by Vincent Q. Kirby, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-190-PHX

RELEASE NUMBER: 2002-053

#